

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE 1998 U.S. FOREST SERVICE ORGANIZATION REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that is long overdue and desperately needed. My legislation, the 1998 U.S. Forest Service Organization Reform bill is simple legislation. Under this proposal the current Regional Offices of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) would be eliminated. In the terms of organization structure they would be replaced by state USFS offices. Each state would have a state director, just as several other agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture operate. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in the Department of the Interior also is organized in this manner.

Authority would be granted for the establishment of up to six technical support centers as well as allowing the USFS to have multi-state directors where the Federal presence is minor. The Forest Service office for a state would be responsible for the administration of National Forest System lands within the state.

I have come to the conclusion that I can no longer wait for the USFS to do the right thing. I can no longer wait for them to solve their management problems. I can no longer wait to see our Forests suffer from neglect, mismanagement and misuse. This administration's record on addressing the major issues facing our Forest on these issues is dismal. Reinventing government in the USFS today means that nobody is in charge. It means forest plans that nobody can understand. It means lawsuits and court decisions that destroy people's livelihoods and damages their families irreparably.

USFS state offices will be the first step in bringing accountability into this agency of government. This office will be closer to the people in the state. The Director will interface directly and often with state officials, local government and concerned citizens. The Director will be accountable for what happens in the forest of the respective states. No longer would the USFS be able to hide in their regional offices. No longer would they be able to ignore problems in the respective states. The BLM manages more land than the USFS. The BLM planning program has been a model of unbridled success when compared to the disastrous Forest Service process. Part of the reason for this success is having a more responsive State office.

I would add at this point I have met numerous excellent USFS employees and I have been continually puzzled as to why these good people cannot make this agency work? Why, year after year, do we have study after study that talks about the mismanagement? I have finally decided that it is the structure of the USFS that is smothering the abilities of the individual employees and stopping them from

solving the problems on our Forest Service lands. Today, we have "teams" and "team leaders" in government but not supervisors. Let me repeat, we have teams and team leaders, but not supervisors. Our forests deserve attention not unsupervised teams. We need people who will be responsive to the needs of our natural heritage—not to the faceless bureaucracy that currently exists in the Forest Service.

There is no doubt that the USFS will say the cost of implementing this legislation is too expensive. It will not be too expensive or more expensive. Not if they do it right. They need to stop trying to protect their sacred regional office turf. If USDA agencies can do it and BLM can do it, then so can the USFS.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREYSTONE PARK ASSOCIATION GREYSTONE PARK, NJ

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Greystone Park Association. Founded in 1948, the Greystone Park Association is an auxiliary to the Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital. The association was formed to augment the services provided by the state and is dedicated to working for the welfare of the patients.

The Greystone Park Association was founded through the efforts of Mrs. Eads Johnson of Morristown, New Jersey. The main focus of the organization was to interest the public in the needs of mental hospitals, particularly Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital and to interest people in volunteering for service either in the hospital proper or in the association.

Since its establishment in 1948, the association has been dedicated to serving the needs of patients at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital. The Greystone Park Association is directly affiliated with the State Hospital. The association's membership is drawn from Morris, Passaic, Hudson and Bergen counties, which the hospital serves.

Many people have benefited from the 50 years of tireless work of the members of the Greystone Park Association. The members continue to operate shops containing clothing, jewelry, antique treasures, etc. two days a week on a year round basis. Also, they hold an Annual Fall Festival, which is the most ambitious fund-raising project and reflects the combined efforts of the hospital, community and the Greystone Park Association.

The Greystone Park Association provides admission packets, clothing, good grooming items, games and books to patients throughout the year, and each patient receives a personal gift during the Holiday season. The Greystone Park Association is committed to improving the quality of life of the patients at the Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating the Greystone Park Association for providing 50 years of important service to the community at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Police Week to recognize the service of all the law enforcement officers in the 5th Congressional District of Washington who have answered the call to public service.

Society places large responsibilities on our law enforcement officers and they perform tasks well beyond the call of duty. They are often the first contact individuals have with government. They should be commended for the great wisdom and compassion they show when assisting individuals during times of great personal sorrow.

By nature of their profession, law enforcement officers encounter individuals every day who reject every moral and ethical code of conduct. In some cases, police risk their lives, emotional well-being and future happiness to ensure that our laws are enforced. They should be commended for their samaritan service.

Mr. Speaker, law enforcement is not a profession for everyone, but it is a worthwhile calling. I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to take some time this week to thank a law enforcement officer in their community for all the hard work and dedication they give us all.

MICHAEL J. BURKE: BOYS HOPE/ GIRLS HOPE HEART OF GOLD AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Michael J. Burke, a constituent and community leader who will receive Cincinnati's Boys Hope/Girls Hope's highest honor, the Heart of Gold Award, on May 26, 1998.

Mike Burke's personal commitment to numerous charities in our region reflects his philosophy of giving back to our community. For over 10 years, Boys Hope/Girls Hope has been blessed by Mike's tireless energy, talent and dedication. Boys Hope provides talented, underprivileged grade and high school children and young men with a safe, wholesome living environment from which they can pursue their studies and prepare for college. The goal of

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